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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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# **VERDICT RETURNED AGAINST METHAMPHETAMINE TRAFFICKER**

**PHOENIX** -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on August 6, 2004, Ramon Ramiro Heras, was found guilty of Possession with the Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine by a federal jury in Phoenix. A co-defendant that testified had previously pled guilty to federal narcotics violations.

The evidence at trial showed that Heras had obtained the use of a vehicle that contained a hidden compartment in the passenger-side dashboard to deliver ½ pound of methamphetamine to a third-party in Colorado.

Heras and a co-defendant were arrested on February 19, 2004, during a routine traffic stop by a Navajo Department of Public Safety officer. During a search of the vehicle, the Navajo DPS officer discovered drug paraphernalia and a firearm. A more thorough search of the vehicle revealed a hidden compartment behind the glove compartment which was made accessible by activating a switch under the driver's-side dashboard. The officer discovered approximately ½ pound of methamphetamine in the hidden compartment.

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The case was tried before United States District Court Judge Earl H. Carroll on August 3, 2004, through August 6, 2004. The defendant's sentencing is scheduled to take place on October 25, 2004. The investigation leading to the guilty verdict was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (Arizona) and the Navajo Department of Public Safety. The prosecution is being handled by John R. Lopez IV, Assistant United States Attorneys, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-04-238-PCT-EHC  
RELEASE NUMBER: 2004-135

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